

THE DAILY CRITIC

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WASHINGTON, D. C., JUNE 20, 1890.

REED AND SILVER.

Speaker Reed and the Administration are in a hard battle in opposition to the Free Coinage Silver Bill. He has joined forces with the Administration for several reasons. Like most Eastern public men, he is in favor of the single gold standard. Then he wants to control the appointment of collector of the port of Portland, the chief Federal office in the Pine Tree State. Above all, with President Harrison out of the race, he expects to be the Administration candidate for the Presidential nomination. If he can possibly do so he will have the bill held up, even in Committee of the Whole, until a compromise measure can be reached which will be adopted by a conference between the two Houses, and which would be accepted by both Houses. This would probably be, substantially, the House bill with the bullion redemption clause left out and a legal tender clause put in.

Yet he may be reckoning without his host. The silver Senators are out for blood. They are determined not to yield the advantage they have gained in the Senate. They propose to hold the Tariff bill up until the fate of the Free Coinage bill is settled. Their purpose is to defeat any tariff legislation unless they can have their way with silver, and their way is free coinage.

MR. WOLCOTT'S SPEECH.

Here is what the New York Evening Post has to say of Senator Wolcott's speech on silver:

Senator Wolcott's attack on the Administration for its attitude on the silver question, for which he received such abundant applause in the galleries and on the floor of the Senate, is not very brilliant in point. It amounts merely to this, that in the campaign of 1888 Wolcott, as a member of the Republican National platform, made a speech of silver, and so told the people in a stump speech that the people were so fully impressed with this action that they gave large majorities to Harrison, and that if they had not understood the matter Harrison would not have carried Colorado and some other Western States, and would have been elected President. But since a man of other people did not understand the platform that way, and since the platform was in fact ambiguous and was intended to be read both ways, Mr. Wolcott's vehemence is good for nothing. It is a jumble of words which may serve to tickle the ears of the listeners while the speaker is on his feet, but it has no lasting value. It is a waste of time to utter a phrase that will never be applied to Mr. Wolcott unless he says something better than this.

The New York Times, also, endeavors editorially to curtail Mr. Wolcott's glory when it says:

If we ask ourselves what it was that won the remarkable demonstration of interest and admiration we are forced to say that it was the most polished but smart and stinging denunciation of Mr. Harrison's policy with some justice as that it was the abuse of Mr. Harrison, for the particular faults attributed to the President are those of which he is no more guilty than all the leaders of his party, and the one thing which more than all else aroused the anger of the young Colorado orator—Mr. Harrison's resistance to free coinage—is not discreditable to him nor is it untrue to himself. The general policy of his party in this matter.

However, we cannot expect an anti-silver authority to recognize the full merit of a bimetallic orator, no matter how fiery and trenchant and splendid his eloquence. Mr. Wolcott will have to console himself with the reflection that he is on the popular side and that, whatever may have been his rhetorical and esthetic shortcomings, his speech was at least original and crisp.

THE RAILROAD QUESTION.

Thoughtful citizens will experience some difficulty in recognizing the validity of the point made by the Post against the Star in the matter of the Adkins bill. Because the Star, fifteen or twenty years ago, advocated the granting of certain privileges to the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad, it does not follow that the Star is thereby bound to advocate the extension and perpetuation of those privileges now. Very excellent reasons, no doubt, animated the Star in the early service, but it is more than likely that, with the wondrous change in the conditions since then, these reasons no longer exist. In the first place the scheme of Washington improvement and beautification, which is now within plain view, was not even dimly dreamed of then. To permit the railroad to enter the city on its present lines and to locate its depot at B and Sixth streets did not at that time mean the wretched desecration that a condemnation and an enlargement of the company's occupation would be now. Besides that, the Star acted the patriotic part in opposing the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad's effort to close Washington against all other railroads, and to keep this city and its welfare at the mercy of a monopoly. So far as we can see, indeed, the Star did precisely what it should have done in the premises, and faithfully discharged its obligations to the community.

The situation today is very different. Washington has developed into the most beautiful capital of the world. Its growth in area has been as great as its evolution in wealth and light. Places which were remote and unattractive for passengers or dumping grounds, a quarter of a century ago, are covered with stately and opulent residences and traversed by broad thoroughfares to-day. The south side of the Avenue, which was once abandoned to neglect and omitted from all our theories of municipal improvement, has become an important, if not an indispensable, feature in one of the grandest and most fascinating of all our thoroughfares. What may have been a sufficiently proper and reasonable concession to the Pennsylvania Railroad company in 1874 has become, by the time and the complication of

IN THE LOBBIES.

Leverett B. St. Louis, B. W. Wilson, Pittsburg, Pa.; W. Sprague, Philadelphia, Pa.; and Mrs. E. F. Phelps and Mrs. S. L. Loring, San Francisco, are stopping at the Willard's.

John E. McFarlane of Philadelphia is registered at the Randolph.

B. C. King and Colonel Robert Avery, of New York, are at the Pennsylvania.

C. H. Baskett and S. H. Springer, Chicago, La. C. Noble and Emily, Houston, Tex., and W. W. Smith, Cincinnati, are at the Rogers House.

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THOMAS B. REED.

THE BULLY OF THE HOUSE HAS HIS CHARACTER ANALYZED.

His Off-Handed Courage and His Unhappy Fate.

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A BABY ACTRESS.

The Way Miss Victoria Vokes Made Her Debut.

Victoria Vokes in Her First Appearance.

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